

used an ultra-violet "health" lamp, kindly loaned by Mr G. Carrel of the hotel, which proved most efficient in attracting moths.

The area is lightly wooded, having a Forestry Commission plantation to the west, and a small lake (Pencerrig) to the north.
M.D.C.

In view of Mr L. K. Evan's article (in *Ent. Rec.*, **85**: 33) and the paucity of records for Radnorshire, M.D.C.'s captures are listed below in full. Eight of the species are in the Evans list and of the remaining 13, four are in Gordon Smith's list (1954, Butterflies and Moths found in the County of Radnorshire, *Proc. Chester Soc. Nat. Sc.*, **1951-53**: 5-51), leaving eight marked with an asterisk for which there appears to be no previous record for Radnorshire.
R.G.W.

PYRALOIDEA.—*Hypsopygia costalis* F. GEOMETROIDEA.—*Idaea aversata* L., *Xanthorhoe designata* Hufn., *X. fluctuata* L., **Ecliptoptera silaceata* D. & S., *Chloroclysta citrata* L., **Plemyria rubiginata* D. & S., *Hydriomena furcata* Thunb., **Perizoma didymata* L., **Epione repandaria* Hufn., *Peribatodes rhomboidaria* D. & S. NOTODONTOIDEA.—*Notodonta dromedarius* L. NOCTUOIDEA.—*Noctua pronuba* L., *N. comes* Hubn., **Paradiarsia glareosa* Esp., **Antitype chi* L., **Atethmia centrago* Haw., **Cryphia domestica* Hufn., *Cosmia trapezina* L., *Mesapamea secalis* L., **Scoliopteryx libatrix* L.

Notes on the Microlepidoptera

By H. C. HUGGINS, F.R.E.S.

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I was greatly interested in Dr Watkinson's note on *Agdistis bennetii* (Curtis) away from saltmarshes (*Ent. Rec.*, **85**: 245). I wrote a note on the appearance of this and other salt-marsh insects in my garden here in *Entomologist*, **90**: 269 (for October 1957). As this was some years ago and I can also add a few further records, I will recapitulate briefly what I then wrote.

My garden is 150 feet above sea level and over three miles, as the crow flies, from the nearest salt-marsh. I have not set my M.V. light at the right time of year since 1963, but till then I always took a few *bennetii* every year and in 1959 I took seven in one night. I also took two *Pediasia aridellus* (Thunb.) = *salinellus* (Tutt) which I have never seen nearer than Canewdon, seven miles away, several *Phalonidia affinetana* (Douglas) and seven *Bactra robustana* Christoph = *scirpicolana* Pierce, the food-plant of the last-named being at least four miles away. These insects nearly always turned up on a warm, rather damp night, with a S.W. wind.

In addition I have taken in my garden 3 *Schoenobius gigantellus* (D. & S.), two *Donacaula mucronellus* D. & S. (of which only three examples have been recorded in Essex) and four *Calomotropha paludellus* Hübn. Mr Donald Down, when he was

living in the heart of the town amidst a net-work of roads and street lighting, also took *bennetii* in his M.V. Furthermore, I always saw at least a dozen *Hydraecia paludis* Tutt and three or four *Apamea oblonga* Haw. in a season, but only once saw *Leucania favicolor* Barrett though a great wanderer, as Robin Mere took it at Chiddingfold.

I do not think sufficient emphasis has been laid in the past on the wandering habits of micros. In August 1958 I took in my garden M.V. a specimen of *Nephopteryx semirubella* (Scop.) and the same night Mr A. J. Dewick took two at Bradwell-on-Sea. I collected for fourteen years at Gravesend and never found *semirubella* nearer than Luddesdown, on the pure chalk, some six miles away. My insect must have crossed the Thames and come twelve miles, and Mr Dewick's about forty. Not bad for a moth which is usually difficult to kick up!

I have also had one *Ptycholomoides aeriferana* (H.-S.) and two *Lozotaenia formosana* Fröl., although we have no firs or larches within twenty miles except an odd one in a garden.

These casual wanderings make me very tolerant of what appear to be curious records, although I never accept them without seeing the insect.

Interspecific Competition in Butterflies

By Dr C. J. LUCKENS

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Mr Sevastopulo has once again thrown down the glove on the subject of interspecific competition in butterflies (1973, *Entomologist's Record*, Volume 85, page 247, and 1972, *Entomologist's Record*, Volume 84, page 76), and refers again to my casual comment on *Argynnis cydippe* L. and *A. aglaia* L. in a Sussex wood (1971, *Entomologist's Record*, Volume 83, pages 261-2).

The hypothesis that these two very similar butterflies compete in localities common to both is by no means a new one. There was a fair amount of correspondence on the same subject in *The Entomologist* in the mid 50's.

The fact of the matter is that in several instances the withdrawal of *cydippe* from a locality has coincided with the arrival or increased abundance of *aglaia*. I do not know, personally, of any cases where the reverse has happened, but in the relatively few localities where the two species fly commonly together a sort of dynamic equilibrium seems to operate.

A further example of this interspecific competition has occurred in North America, where the native *Pieris napi* L. and *P. protodice* Boisduval and Leconte (Checkered White) have both been displaced by the introduced *P. rapae* L. The two native species, formerly widespread, have been pushed by the advance of *P. rapae* into much restricted ranges and even different habits and habitats. No less an authority than Professor Alexander Klots states that the decline of these indigenous butterflies in North America is probably due to their failure